10/566037

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Re Item V.

1   The following documents are referred to in this report:
D1:   DE 100 50 147 A (RENNER) May 2, 2002 (05-02-2002)
D2:   DE 41 07 207 A (ELEKTRO-APPARATE-WERKE BERLIN) September 10,
1992 (09-10-1992)

2   INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

2.1   The present application does not satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33(1)
because the subject matter of claim 1 is not based on an inventive step in the sense
of PCT Article 33(3).

2.1.1   The document D1, is regarded as the closest prior art to the subject matter of
claim 1. This discloses (column 1, line 1 – column 4, line 25; Figures 1, 2) a method
for determination of a load characteristic for an electrical primary component of a
power distribution network in which the following steps are carried out:
- description values which describe an operating state of the primary component are
recorded by means of a sensor which is connected to a field appliance;
- the load characteristic is produced as a function of a load intermediate value and a
load limit value.

2.1.2   The subject matter of claim 1 thus differs from the method that is known from D1 in
that the load intermediate value is determined from an overall sum of the description
values over the duration of a time interval.

2.1.3   The object to be achieved by the present invention can thus be regarded as being
the accurate determination of information relating to load levels, aging of the primary
variables over time intervals.

2.1.4   The document D2 (column 1, line 1 – column 7, line 35; Figures 1-6) describes the
same advantages as the present application with regard to this feature. A person
skilled in the art would thus regard the inclusion of this feature in the method as
described in D1 as a normal measure to achieve the stated object.
The solution proposed in claim 1 of the present application therefore cannot be
regarded as being inventive (PCT Article 33(3)).

3   DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-15

3.1   Claims 2-11 contain no features which in combination with the features of any claim
to which they refer satisfy the PCT requirements with respect to an inventive step,
because their features are known from D2.

3.2   The feature combination contained in the dependent claims 12 to 15 is neither
known from the present prior art, nor is obvious from it.